

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SD Soldiers honor fallen hero in memorial run

WATERTOWN, S.D. – Soldiers with the South Dakota Army National Guard’s 147th Forward Support Company of Watertown participated in the ninth annual Greg Wagner Memorial Run, in Alexandria, May 23.

Joining over 100 other participants, five members of the FSC took part in the annual event commemorating Greg Wagner, a member of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery who died May 8, 2006, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The event started with Greg’s brother, Dan, thanking the participants, followed by a prayer of thanks before participants began the 5k or 10k run/walk.

Upon finishing, members of Greg’s family presented each finisher with a participant coin and thanked them for joining in the fun.

“Knowing what it means to the Wagner family, to see Soldiers, family members and friends come and remember Greg is a huge reason I participate in the event,” said 2nd Lt. Jessie Park. “My brother was in Greg’s unit, so as a family member I have an understanding of what the family went through, when Charlie Battery was deployed.

“To me, setting up this event is a way Greg’s family is asking for support and that makes it really important and easy to give them what they are asking for,” Park said.

Two of the five members of the FSC, Spcs. Gregg Aulner and Brandon Fedeler, took extra steps to commemorate the Wagner by wearing their Army Combat Uniform and carrying the FSC guidon for entire 10k.

“I participated in the event to support my fellow Soldier,” Fedeler said of his motivation to finish. “I didn’t personally know Greg, but to me, participating in this event tells the family that the Guard is always going to be there for you. Despite losing your Soldier, we’re always going to be there.”

The members of the 147th who wore their uniforms and carried the guidon were proud to display a tradition of camaraderie and support, not only to the family of Greg Wagner but to all veterans who appreciate the nod of thanks and respect.



060523-Z-ZZ999-001: Spcs. Gregg Aulner and Brandon Fedeler with the South Dakota Army National Guard's 147th Forward Support Company of Watertown participate in the ninth annual Greg Wagner Memorial Run, in Alexandria, S.D., May 23, 2015. Five members of the FSC took part in the annual event commemorating Greg Wagner, a member of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery who died May 8, 2006, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Courtesy photo)



060523-Z-ZZ999-002: Soldiers with the South Dakota Army National Guard's 147th Forward Support Company of Watertown participated in the ninth annual Greg Wagner Memorial Run, in Alexandria, S.D., May 23, 2015. Five members of the FSC took part in the annual event commemorating Greg Wagner, a member of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery who died May 8, 2006, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Courtesy photo)

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